

From: Kirk
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 1:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,

With the settlement of the Microsoft case nearing the point where the District Court will rule whether or not this settlement is in the best interest of the consumer public, I wish to urge that it is.

The proposed settlement with the DOJ and 9 states is tough, fair and appropriate.

As a consumer, I have never felt that I was harmed in any way by Microsoft's business tactics. I believe that standardization is actually the consumer's best friend, assuming that the quality of the standard is upheld. I believe that Microsoft works very hard and invests millions, or even billions of dollars to ensure that their products are the best.

As an investor, I have lost significant amounts of personal wealth in the past 18+ months, partly due to the economic downturn, but also in large part because of the case against Microsoft, which drove the price of Microsoft stock, and the stock of nearly every other company down. I have always maintained that the pressure on Microsoft stock, which is so widely held in private accounts as well as institutional funds, has had a large role in eroding our economy during the past couple of years.

As a taxpayer, I feel that more than enough has been spent on this case. In the interest of the taxpaying public, I think it is time this case were settled and put to rest for good. I wish the other 9 states attorney generals who have not agreed to this settlement would also put aside political aspirations and act on behalf of the public as well, and join in this settlement agreement. Private interest groups who oppose this settlement do not have the majority of public interest at heart- for them it is a personal vendetta.

Suffice it to say that as a consumer, and investor, a taxpayer and as an American, I feel this settlement is appropriate and necessary so that we all might get on with our lives and with the business of strengthening the American economy. In order to do this, one key step is to put this case to rest. Please include my sentiments as part of the public record for the District Court to review.

God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Kirk Werner

Duvall, Washington